

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A JOINT SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT WERE NORMAN VOYLES, BRIAN GOSS, AND RYAN GOODWIN. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, PAUL PRATHER, VICKIE KIVETT, DAVE ZOLLER, DANIEL ELLIOTT, KIM MERIDETH, AND VIRGINIA PERRY. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT; AND ROD BRAY, COUNTY ATTORNEY.

PLEDGE (Kim Merideth)

PRAYER (Paul Prather)

BRYAN COLLIER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

JAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Eric Ratts, DLZ, was present to review to results of the jail feasibility study. Mr. Ratts has been working with Sheriff Downey, the courts, Commissioners, judges, and probation to determine the needs for 2040. Some of the questions that arose were: why is Morgan County incarcerating (per 1,000) at such a rate that they do? What can be done?

Some of the information Mr. Ratts presented included the following: Of the 92 counties in Indiana, 91 have jails. HEA 1006 has increased the average daily population by approximately 10%. Thirty percent of inmates are from Marion County. The most expensive component of the cost of a building project is the staffing. The highest population of inmates is people waiting for sentencing. If the average length of stay is reduced, this will reduce the need for beds. The original jail is 26 years old, which means it's about 78 years old when compared to a regular facility. (Jails age three years for every one year of a regular facility.) Jails today are very different than they were twenty, or even five years ago; so often today they are a detox center. There are more intense mental health issues among the inmates.

Mr. Ratts mentioned trends in jails today; sunlight, therapeutic color schemes, cleanliness, outside space, etc.

HEA 1006 has decreased the state prison population by 4% to 5% although county jail population has increased by more than 5%. Counties are thinking of other types of sentencing rather than jail, diversion programs or community corrections. As of 2015, Morgan County had the 23rd largest population in the state, had the 10th largest jail, and was at 79% of capacity. The average daily population was 390 in 2016.

If the current trend continues and no changes are made, Morgan County will need 819 beds by 2040 (80% capacity); there are currently 439 beds. Some of the alternatives to building a new or additional facility are: implementing a crisis intervention team, a jail diversion program, community transition program, and addressing housing needs for special need inmates (addictions and mental health).

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Prather made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 10-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Norman Voyles

Ryan Goodwin

Brian Goss

Morgan County Council

Bryan Collier

Paul Prather

Daniel Elliott

Vickie Kivett

Dave Zoller

Kim Merideth

Virginia Perry

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor